

# United States Senate

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairwoman Capito and Ranking Member Tester:

As the Subcommittee begins deliberations on the Fiscal Year 2021 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, we write to respectfully request that the U.S.-Israel Homeland Security Program receive an appropriation of \$2 million.

Israel has emerged as a global leader in developing technologies for homeland security. Recognizing Israel's expertise, the United States is partnering with Israel through the U.S.-Israel Homeland Security Program to advance first responder technologies; secure critical infrastructure and public facilities; provide maritime, aviation, and border security; and prevent and respond to cyber-attacks. The Program is administered by the U.S.-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the Israel Ministry of Public Security. Congress has supported the Program for years, having provided its initial authorization through the United States- Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016, P.L. 114-304. The U.S.-Israel Homeland Security Program received \$2 million in Fiscal Year 2020, and is leveraged by Israeli funding.

Examples of recent bilateral projects that support the U.S. homeland security mission include development of an unmanned search and rescue system to find victims under ruins and in disaster areas by locating their cellular phones, a wearable indoor positioning system that first responders can use when GPS and other satellite-based technologies fail, and an artificial intelligence-based analytics video security solution used to protect public facilities.

Continued funding will enable new joint efforts in the field of cybersecurity technologies. In 2017, the United States and Israel launched a joint Cyber Working Group with the goal of advancing "unprecedented cooperation on cybersecurity through a whole-of-government approach between our two countries on pressing cyber challenges." With cyber threats becoming increasingly sophisticated, Israeli innovations can play a critical role in providing the United States with cybersecurity solutions.

Thank you for your consideration and prior funding for the U.S.-Israel Homeland Security Program. We request your continued support for Fiscal Year 2021.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jacky Rosen  
/s/ Todd Young  
/s/ Maria Cantwell  
/s/ Mike Braun  
/s/ Catherine Cortez Masto  
/s/ M. Michael Rounds  
/s/ Edward J. Markey  
/s/ David A. Perdue  
/s/ Christopher A. Coons  
/s/ Rick Scott  
/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand  
/s/ Cory Gardner  
/s/ Sherrod Brown  
/s/ Richard Blumenthal  
/s/ Joe Manchin III  
/s/ Margaret Wood Hassan  
/s/ Cory A. Booker